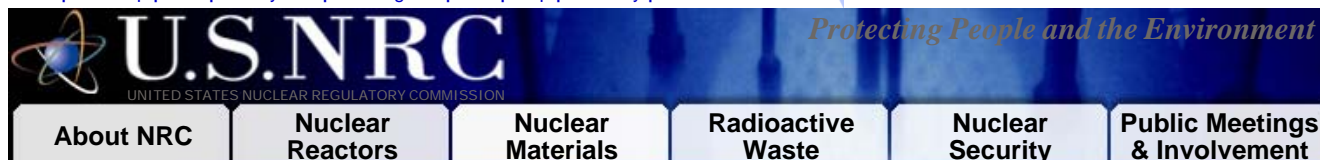


[Index](#) | [Site Map](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Facility Info](#) | [Reading Rm](#) | [New](#) | [Help](#) | [Glossary](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Google Custom Search

[Search Options](#)[Gas Centrifuge Enrichment](#)**Licensing Reviews**[AREVA NC Gas Centrifuge Facility](#)[LES Gas Centrifuge Facility](#)[USEC Inc. Gas Centrifuge](#)**Related Information**[FAQ](#)[Fact Sheet on Gaseous Diffusion](#)[Fact Sheet on Uranium Enrichment](#)[Home](#) > [Nuclear Materials](#) > [Fuel Cycle Facilities](#) > [New Fuel Facility Licensing](#) > [Gas Centrifuge Enrichment](#) > [LES Gas Centrifuge](#)

## Louisiana Energy Services (LES) Gas Centrifuge Facility

The LES partnership is currently owned entirely by Urenco. Exelon, Duke Power, and Entergy were previously partners in LES but dropped out of the partnership following the issuance of the license to LES to construct and operate a uranium enrichment facility. LES intends to use Urenco's sixth generation gas centrifuge technology that is being used in Europe. Urenco has a capacity of about 20 percent of the world's enrichment market.

On this page:

- [Regulation and Legislation](#)
- [License Application](#)
- [Safety Evaluation Report](#)
- [Environmental Review](#)
- [Correspondence and Other Information](#)
- [Public Involvement](#)
- [Indirect Transfer of License](#)
- [Related Information](#)

For further information on the Louisiana Energy Services Gas Centrifuge Facility, [contact us](#).

[TOP](#)

### Regulation and Legislation

In 1990, Congress passed the Solar, Wind, Waste, and Geothermal Power Production Incentives Act. Among other things, this legislation amended the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to require licensing of uranium enrichment facilities under U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations in 10 CFR Parts 40 and 70. The act also stated that the construction and operation of a uranium enrichment facility is considered a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) needs to be prepared for this type of facility. Under the legislation, an adjudicatory hearing on the licensing of the construction and operation is required. This hearing must be completed before issuance of a license. The act also requires the applicant to obtain public liability insurance for the facility and requires the NRC to inspect the facility before operations begin to ensure that the plant is constructed to meet the license requirements.

[TOP](#)

### License Application

On December 12, 2003, LES submitted a [license application and environmental report](#) to NRC for a proposed gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant. Full capacity of 3 million SWU/yr is currently projected for 2013, depending on market demand. On September 2, 2003, LES announced its site selection as Lea County, New Mexico.

On January 30, 2004, the Commission issued an [Order](#) initiating the LES proceeding applicable to its application for a uranium enrichment plant. The Order offered an opportunity for a hearing, ordered the use of the new 10 CFR Part 2 hearing procedures and a 30-month licensing [Review Schedule](#), and addressed several policy issues applicable to uranium enrichment facility licensing.

On April 19, 2004, NRC provided the staff's initial technical review of the license application that

identified a need for additional information. LES submitted its response to the [Request for Additional Information](#) (RAI) on May 19, 2004. A second RAI was sent to LES on April 29, 2004, concerning the preparation of an EIS for the proposed facility. LES submitted responses to the RAI regarding its environmental review on May 20, 2004, and June 10, 2004.

On October 20, 2004, an RAI on the decommissioning funding plan was sent to LES. LES provided responses on December 10, 2004; January 7, 2005; March 3, 2005; March 29, 2005; and April 8, 2005. The March 29 and April 8 responses contain proprietary information.

On January 28, 2005, an additional RAI on environmental impacts was sent to LES. LES responded to this request on February 11, 2005.

The following is a list of the current effective revisions to the Safety Analysis Report and Environmental Report:

#### **Safety Analysis Report**

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Revision 1   | February 27, 2004  |
| Revision 2   | July 30, 2004      |
| Revision 3   | September 30, 2004 |
| Revision 4   | April 22, 2005     |
| Revision 5   | April 29, 2005     |
| Revision 6   | May 25, 2005       |
| Revision 7   | June 10, 2005      |
| Revision 8   | February 16, 2006  |
| Revision 9   | February 28, 2006  |
| Revision 10  | March 16, 2006     |
| Revision 11  | March 24, 2006     |
| Revision 12  | October 23, 2006   |
| Revision 12a | April 10, 2007     |
| Revision 13  | July 30, 2007      |
| Revision 14  | October 12, 2007   |
| Revision 15  | November 17, 2007  |
| Revision 16  | January 30, 2008   |

#### **Environmental Report**

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Revision 1  | February 27, 2004  |
| Revision 2  | July 30, 2004      |
| Revision 3  | September 30, 2004 |
| Revision 4  | April 22, 2005     |
| Revision 5  | June 10, 2005      |
| Revision 6  | March 16, 2006     |
| Revision 7  | March 24, 2006     |
| Revision 8  | January 29, 2007   |
| Revision 8a | April 10, 2007     |
| Revision 9  | July 30, 2007      |
| Revision 10 | January 30, 2008   |

On June 23, 2006, NRC issued a license to LES to construct and operate a uranium enrichment facility. The license was issued following favorable hearing decisions by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.



#### **Safety Evaluation Report**

On December 12, 2003, Louisiana Energy Services submitted an application for a uranium

enrichment facility. On June 15, 2005, the NRC staff completed its review of the application and documents the results in the Safety Evaluation Report for the National Enrichment Facility in Lea County, New Mexico, Louisiana Energy Services ([NUREG-1827](#)).

The review evaluates the potential adverse impacts of facility operation on worker and public health and safety under both normal operating and accident conditions. The review also considers physical protection of special nuclear material (SNM) and classified matter, material control and accounting of SNM, and the management organization, administrative programs, and financial qualifications provided to ensure safe design and operation of the facility.

The NRC staff concludes, in this Safety Evaluation Report, that the applicant's descriptions, specifications, and analyses provide an adequate basis for safety and safeguards of facility operations and that operation of the facility does not pose an undue risk to worker and public health and safety.

NRC staff issued a Safety Evaluation Report Supplement on criticality safety issues on March 3, 2006. The supplement addressed issues related to the criticality safety validation report. NRC staff concluded that LES had adequately addressed the validation of its computer codes used in evaluating nuclear criticality safety issues.

On April 6, 2006, NRC staff issued a Safety Evaluation Report Supplement on DOE's cost estimate for the disposition of depleted uranium. NRC staff concluded that DOE's cost estimate was reasonable and complied with its regulations.

On May 16, 2006, NRC staff issued a Safety Evaluation Report Supplement on changes in the LES partnership agreement, whereby Urenco, the principle general partner, purchased the shares of Westinghouse Enrichment Company. NRC staff concluded that the change presented adequately described the corporate identity, structure, and financial information required under the regulations; that LES was financially qualified to build and operate the proposed facility; and that LES met the requirements for Foreign Ownership, Control, and Influence.

[TOP](#)

## Environmental Review

NRC develops, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act ([NEPA](#)), an Environmental Impact Statement for "major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." Licensing a uranium enrichment facility is considered a "major Federal action," requiring an EIS. For more information about NEPA and the environmental review process, see [Frequently Asked Questions About NRC's Role under the National Environmental Policy Act](#).

The NRC staff held a public meeting on the scope of the EIS for the proposed National Enrichment Facility (NEF) to be constructed and operated by LES on March 4, 2004, in Eunice, New Mexico. The public was encouraged to provide [comments](#) on the NRC's scoping process.

The NRC issued its draft EIS on September 17, 2004, for public comment. NRC staff held a public meeting on October 14, 2004, in Eunice, New Mexico, to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft EIS. The public comment period closed on January 7, 2005.

On June 15, 2005, the NRC staff issued Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed National Enrichment Facility in Lea County, New Mexico -- Final Report ([NUREG-1790](#)). In the final EIS, the staff analyzed the environmental impacts from the proposed NEF and determined that such impacts generally would be small to moderate. In preparing the final EIS, the staff addressed nearly 4200 comments on the draft EIS that were received from approximately 400 individuals.

[TOP](#)

## Correspondence and Other Information

*Some links on this page are to documents in our [Agencywide Documents Access and Management System](#) (ADAMS), and others are to documents in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). ADAMS documents are provided in either PDF or Tagged Image File Format (TIFF). To obtain free viewers for displaying these formats, see our [Plugins, Viewers, and Other Tools](#) page. If you have questions about search techniques or problems with viewing or printing*

documents from ADAMS, please contact the [Public Document Room staff](#).

| Date                       | Description  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <a href="#">04/03/2008</a> | Review of Indirect Transfer of License and Amendment 6 to License  |
| <a href="#">03/14/2008</a> | Review of Byproduct Material, Liability Insurance, and Decommissioning Financial Assurance Changes   |
| <a href="#">02/08/2008</a> | Review Of Louisiana Energy Services Amendment Request To Modify Structural Design Safety Factors (TAC L32392)  |
| <a href="#">01/28/2008</a> | Review of Louisiana Energy Services Standard Practice Procedures Plan for the Protection of Classified Matter, Revision 3, and Amendment 5 to License  |
| <a href="#">01/28/2008</a> | Review of ETUS Standard Practice Procedures Plan for the Protection of Classified Matter and Amendment 4 to License  |
| <a href="#">01/25/2008</a> | Review of Quality Assurance Program Description and Amendment 3 of License   |
| <a href="#">06/26/2007</a> | Amendment 2 to LES License   |
| <a href="#">05/02/2007</a> | Amendment 1 to LES License   |
| <a href="#">06/23/2006</a> | License for the Louisiana Energy Services National Enrichment Facility   |
| <a href="#">05/16/2006</a> | Safety Evaluation Report Supplement on Ownership Changes (Louisiana Energy Services Gas Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Facility)  |
| <a href="#">04/06/2006</a> | Safety Evaluation Report Supplement on Review of U.S. Department of Energy Depleted Uranium Disposition Cost Estimate (Louisiana Energy Services Gas Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Facility) |
| <a href="#">03/03/2006</a> | Revised Safety Evaluation Report Sections 5.3.6.3 and 5.5 (Louisiana Energy Services Gas Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Facility)   |
| <a href="#">04/09/2004</a> | Louisiana Energy Services Quality Assurance Program Description for the National Enrichment Facility   |
| <a href="#">01/22/2004</a> | License Application for the National Enrichment Facility - Acknowledgment of Receipt   |



## Public Involvement

### Meeting Schedule

For upcoming meetings, see our [Public Meeting Schedule](#). Information for the meetings on this page are available at this Web site or in ADAMS if an accession number is given.

### Meeting Archive

| Meetings and Other Interactions Between LES and NRC |   |
|---|---|
| Meeting Date  | Subject   |
| 01/02/2008  | 12/17/07 LES Meeting Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>  |
| 11/30/2007  | 12/17/07 Meeting Notice: Meeting with Louisiana Energy Services to Discuss Project Management Issues and Status Related to the Licensee's Gas Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Facility to be Constructed in Eunice, NM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Meeting Notice</a></li> </ul> |
| 09/18/2007  | Closed Meeting Notice: Meeting with Louisiana Energy Services to Discuss Additional Security Measures Order on Protection of Classified Information for the National Enrichment Facility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Meeting Notice</a></li> </ul>                             |
| 09/14/2007  | Closed Meeting Notice: Meeting with Louisiana Energy Services to Discuss  |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
|            | <p>Proprietary Structural Design Changes for the National Enrichment Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Notice</a></li> </ul>  |
| 09/12/2007 | <p>Closed Meeting Notice: Meeting with Louisiana Energy Services to Discuss Additional Security Measures Order on Physical Security for the National Enrichment Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Notice</a></li> </ul> |
| 06/11/2007 | <p>Louisiana Energy Services Management Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 12/12/2006 | <p>Louisiana Energy Services Quarterly Management Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 08/10/2006 | <p>Louisiana Energy Services Public Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 05/23/2006 | <p>Louisiana Energy Services Quarterly Management Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 02/10/2006 | <p>In-Office-Review Summary: Louisiana Energy Services Nuclear Criticality Safety Validation and Verification Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>  |
| 12/20/2005 | <p>Louisiana Energy Services Management Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 08/02/2005 | <p>Louisiana Energy Services Public Meeting Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 05/31/2005 | <p>In-Office-Review Summary: Louisiana Energy Services Decommissioning Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>  |
| 05/18/2005 | <p>Louisiana Energy Services Quarterly Management Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 04/19/2005 | <p>In-Office-Review Summary: Louisiana Energy Services Decommissioning Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>  |
| 01/12/2005 | <p>January 12, 2005, Meeting Summary: Louisiana Energy Services Quarterly Management Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>  |
| 11/10/2004 | <p>Summary of meeting with Louisiana Energy Services about the LES Gas Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Plant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>  |
| 10/21/2004 | <p>Louisiana Energy Services Quarterly Management Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 09/09/2004 | <p>In-Office-Review Summary: Louisiana Energy Services Safe-By-Design Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>  |
| 07/08/2004 | <p>Louisiana Energy Services Criticality Issues Meeting</p>   |

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
|               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>  |
| 06/24/2004    | Louisiana Energy Services Quarterly Management Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 05/27-28/2004 | Louisiana Energy Services' In-Office Review, Hobbs, New Mexico and Site Visit, Eunice, New Mexico <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>                      |
| 03/25/2004    | Louisiana Energy Services Quarterly Management Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 03/09-10/2004 | Louisiana Energy Services' Integrated Safety Analysis In-Office Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 02/26/2004    | Louisiana Energy Services' Approach for Preparing the Integrated Safety Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>                                       |
| 11/04/2003    | Public Meeting on the Louisiana Energy Services Proposed Enrichment Plant in Eunice, New Mexico <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>                        |
| 10/01-03/2003 | Meetings with Local Officials Related to the Louisiana Energy Services Proposed Enrichment Plant in Eunice, New Mexico <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul> |
| 03/06-07/2003 | Conference call to discuss Quality Assurance Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Call summary</a></li> </ul>  |
| 02/12/2003    | Louisiana Energy Services State Senate Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 11/18/2002    | Louisiana Energy Services Smith County Commission Meeting and Macon County Public Information Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>                    |
| 10/21/2002    | Trousdale County Commission Meeting Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>  |
| 10/14/2002    | LES Public Information Forum Meeting Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 10/03/2002    | Louisiana Energy Services Pre-Application Meeting on Site Characterization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 09/24-25/2002 | Meeting with State Officials and County Executives on LES proposed application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>   |
| 09/05/2002    | LES Pre-Application Meeting on Operational Experience and Quality Assurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>  |
| 08/08/2002    | LES Pre-Application Meeting on Instrumentation and Controls and Integrated Safety Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li> </ul>                           |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 06/25/2002    | Louisiana Energy Services Pre-Application Meeting on Information Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li></ul> |
| 05/29/2002    | Louisiana Energy Services Pre-Application Meeting on Information Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li></ul> |
| 05/21-23/2002 | Foreign Trip <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li></ul>  |
| 04/30/2002    | LES Pre-Application Meeting on General Policy Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li></ul>                      |
| 03/19/2002    | LES Pre-Application Meeting on General Licensing Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Meeting Summary</a></li></ul>                   |



## Indirect Transfer of License

On October 19, 2007, LES submitted a request for indirect transfer of license. In this request, LES proposes to: (1) restructure itself from a Limited Partnership to a Limited Liability Company; and (2) reorganize the ownership arrangement of Urenco Deelnemingen BV, a current partner of LES. No physical changes to the LES facility or operational changes are being proposed.

On January 31, 2008, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.1 301 (b), NRC published a ***Federal Register*** notice on the consideration of the application and offering an opportunity to provide comments and petition for a hearing. No comments or petitions for a hearing were received.

The following is a list of correspondence applicable to this licensing action:

| Document  | Date     | ADAMS Accession Number |
|---|----------|------------------------|
| LES request for indirect transfer of license    | 10-19-07 | ML073580228            |
| NRC acceptance review                           | 11-07-07 | ML073170148            |
| LES revision of proprietary designation         | 11-05-07 | ML073120014            |
| NRC approval of request to withhold information | 11-30-07 | ML073330368            |
| <b><i>Federal Register</i></b> Notice           | 01-31-08 | ML073551143            |
| NRC approval of Indirect Transfer of License    | 04-03-08 | ML080800028            |



## Related Information

- [Frequently Asked Questions About Gas Centrifuge Enrichment Plants](#)
- [Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for a Fuel Cycle Facility - Final Report \(NUREG-1520\)](#)



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Site Disclaimer](#)  
Thursday, April 10, 2008